

NTHMP Coordinating Committee Meeting Minutes

Sept 15, 2020

4:00pm EDT

1. Roll Call:

Alaska

Mr. James Benzschawel, Alaska Division of Emergency Management, Anchorage, AK
Dr. Dmitry Nicolsky, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK

American Samoa

No representatives

California

Mr. Kevin Miller, California Office of Emergency Services, San Francisco, CA
Mr. Rick Wilson, California Geological Survey, Sacramento, CA
Ms. Yvette LaDuke, California Office of Emergency Services, Valencia, CA

Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands

Chip Guard

East Coast States

Mr. Ed Fratto, Northeast States Earthquake Consortium, Wakefield, MA
Dr. Jim Kirby, University of Delaware, Newark, DE
Dr. Stephen Grilli, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI

Guam

Mr. Leo Espia, Guam Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Agana Heights, GU

Gulf Coast States

Dr. Juan Horrillo, Texas A&M University at Galveston, Galveston, TX

Hawaii

Mr. Kevin Richards, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, Honolulu, HI
Dr. Kwok Fai Cheung, University of Hawaii, Honolulu, HI

Oregon

Dr. Jonathan Allan, Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Portland, OR

Puerto Rico

No representative

U.S. Virgin Islands

Ms. Denise Lewis, Virgin Islands Territorial EMA, St. Croix, VI
Mr. Roy Watlington, Virgin Islands, St. Thomas, VI

Washington

Elyssa Tappero, Washington Emergency Mgmt Division, Camp Murray, WA
Ms. Corina Allen, Washington Geological Survey, Olympia, WA

NOAA

Dr. Grant Cooper, NWS Western Region Director, Salt Lake City, UT
Mr. Mike Angove⁵, Tsunami Program, NOAA/NWS Headquarters, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Marie Eblé¹, NOAA Pacific Marine Environmental Lab, Seattle, WA
Mr. Ian Sears⁵, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Mr. Lewis Kozlosky⁴, NOAA/National Weather Service HQ, Silver Spring, MD
Ms. Christa von Hillebrandt, NOAA/NWS Caribbean Tsunami Warning Pgm, Mayagüez, PR
Dr. Laura Kong, International Tsunami Information Center, Honolulu, HI
Dr. James Gridley, NTWC Director, Palmer, AK
Dr. Chip McCreery, PTWC Director, Honolulu, HI
Ms. Kelly Stroker, NCEI, Boulder, CO

FEMA

Mr. Mike Mahoney, FEMA Headquarters, Washington, DC
Ms. Amanda Siok, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA
Ms. Tamra Biasco, FEMA Region X, Lynnwood, WA

USGS

Ms. Stephanie Ross, U.S. Geological Survey, Moffett Field, CA

33 present, 10 state votes (min 7); 6 Fed votes (min 4). Quorum requirement met.

- ¹ Coord. Comm member, NOAA employee, non-voting ² Guest, one-time, non-voting
³ Alternate for primary CC member (guest) ⁴ Regular guest, non-voting status
⁵ Ex-officio, non-voting member

2. Welcome and call meeting to order: NTHMP Administrator Ian Sears
The NTHMP Administrator called the meeting to order at 4:01 pm EDT
3. Minutes of Coordinating Committee meeting of July 23, 2020.
The NTHMP Chair called for approval of the minutes of the July 23, 2020 Coordinating Committee meeting.
With no dissention, the minutes were approved by acclamation.
4. [DISCUSSION] FY20 grant status: NTHMP Administrator
All Grants have been approved and accepted.
FY21 General update / plan
Will schedule presentations for January
5. [DISCUSSION] NTHMP summer meeting
Schedule was distributed. Is a work in progress and it will be fluid. CA will help develop 101 template.

Invited guests can be added to meeting to provide information on the tsunami community.

Christa: Can be a WCM? Ian: yes
John: Timing of invited guests (3-4 ET)
Ian: about 30 mins for guests.

There will not be in person travel for the foreseeable future.
In-person meeting in Sacramento will be planned for July 2021.
6. [DISCUSSION] HAZSIMP – update from NWS: NTHMP Administrator
 - We received a bit of feedback from when Ian sent out the options before
 - **Option A: Tsunami Warning for Strong Currents [with Tsunami in Header]**
This option would replace Tsunami Advisory with a Tsunami Warning with text to indicate a tsunami threat of less than 1m; a lower category threat than the existing Tsunami Warning.
 - **Option B: Marine Hazard Warning [without Tsunami in Header]**
This option would replace Tsunami Advisory with a new category of warning (Marine Hazard Warning) with “tsunami” referenced in the body of the message rather than in the header to indicate a lower category threat than a tsunami of 1m or greater.
 - **Option C: Coastal and Marine Tsunami Warning [with Tsunami in Header]**
This option would replace Tsunami Advisory with a new category of warning (Coastal and Marine Tsunami Warning). In this case “tsunami” is referenced in the header and amplified with text in the main body to indicate a lower category threat than a tsunami of 1m or greater.

- Hoping to get survey out by October 1

Quite a bit of feedback received resulting in the options above. Can send the examples again if needed. Currently only a survey to ask about the preferred options.

Corina Allen: at last meeting some questions about how results would be synthesized.

Ian Sears: some filtering based on location and affiliation. Will be a public survey and sharing encouraged.

Corina Allen: States and territories have a chance to view questions?

Ian Sears: read the 2 questions.

Jon Allen: goal is to encourage NTHMP to further distribute? Ian: yes

Christa von Hillebrandt: should be shared with the media. Mike agrees.

Chip McCreery: 1st question - almost nobody has experience with the hazard. Maybe result in uninformed responses.

Jon Allen agrees.

Ian Sears: could be a couple years before final decision.

Mike Angove: there will be a lot of vetting following the survey.

Jon Allen: can share the questions now? Ian will get back on that.

7. [DISCUSSION] NTHMP website update - Sears

- Had some technical difficulties with the website
- Lewis is presently the only one with access to update
- We want to rethink the website:
 - What are the critical functions of the website?
 - What does the website need to do?
 - What is the impact if we were to change the website address?

Ian Sears: Could not access the server to update the website, which led to the above questions. Access has been fixed.

Marie Eble: where did questions come from? PMEL hosted for years. It is the public view of the NTHMP including Congress and staffers.

Corina Allen: Can just google NTHMP resources, which is very useful.

Kevin Richards: Forms and other resources are very useful. Changes in grant processes, etc. would be helpful.

Nate Wood: Is this a service for NTHMP or more for the public? Internal NTHMP info doesn't necessarily mean it needs to be public.

Could be some kind of server folder. Sharepoint?

Corina Allen: critical function – I'm looking for a one stop place for grant information.

Nate Wood: web and tool development - this a service so that we can be public. There are share points.

Dmitry Nicolsky: Guidelines on how to make inundation map - here's an official site

Keep important documents

Diego Arcas: Repository for modeling documentation making it available to the general public - also serves to showcase the accomplishments of the NTHMP.

Ian Sears: looking to hear what the most important aspects of the site from members.

Mike Angove: there are 11 service programs. Want to understand the most important aspects to be able to inform management.

8. [DISCUSSION] TsunamiReady – Angove: Numbers will be reduced this year due to covid, etc.

Grant Cooper: Engagement by WCMs and partners will be reduced, expected until at least mid 2021.

Angove: probably down to half of current target of 50. How will that impact preparedness?

Jon Allen: Challenging regarding what TR means to a broader population. May not be the best measure of preparedness. Focus has been on other issues than tsunami in general.

Angove: what is our preparedness in covid era, and what can be done to address any reduction?

Chip Guard: Should be part of WRN initiative?

Amanda Siok: FEMA maps areas that are most vulnerable, which may be helpful to TR.

Christa von Hillebrandt: every renewal improves preparedness.

9. MES readout

Meeting 9/29

MRPWG –

First off, we're happy to report that we have included Corina Allen and Stephanie Ross as honorary co-chairs in the leadership group because of their interest in this work. The leadership group have met twice over the past couple months to more fully develop a plan for our four annual plan tasks. It should be noted that much of the work of this Work Group is being performed by leveraging other projects and funding, such as funding from FEMA in California under RiskMAP and potential future funding from NEHRP for the State of Washington.

We'd also like to mention that we will be sending out an email to invite NTHMP members interested in taking part in one of our four task work groups, as follows:

- Maritime mitigation and recovery planning - This group led by Kevin Miller, Rick Wilson, and Todd Becker continues to update guidance and the website. We held a webinar for staff from the NOAA international and Caribbean tsunami programs about this work and received good feedback.
- Guidance for use and communication of PTHA products - Led by Corina Allen and Amanda Siok this work group is being formed and webinars will be held as the Guidance is being produced. These webinars will be led by expert planners and communicators in the "probabilistic" mapping and messaging fields.
- Guidance for debris planning - Althea Rizzo and representatives from California are leading a work group comprised of scientists, engineers, and state and local planners with interest and expertise in tsunami debris and sediment modeling and planning. The group met to discuss developing a guidance document which is about 20% complete.
- Guidance for funding mitigation and recovery planning activities - Amanda Siok, Kevin Miller, and Tim Cook are listed as leaders to form a work group to collect example projects and provide guidance about funding opportunities and acquisition.

Again, if you are interested in participating in one or more of these work groups, please contact Amanda, Rick, Maximilian, Corina, and/or Stephanie.

10. MMS readout

See MMS meeting notes

11. WCS readout

See WCS meeting notes

12. Old Business

Not covered

13. New Business –

Dmitry Nicolsky - University guidance - is there any NOAA guidance on travel during the pandemic.

Grant Cooper: travel has to be approved by NOAA HQ. Only essential travel is authorized.

14. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 5:27pm EDT